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Chapter 4 - Section 4 - Part a.

The Drinnons were the first settlers in the Edray Community. Thomas Drinon, son of Walter Drinon of Ireland, settled in Edray about 1760. The Drinon cabin stood on the bank near the present graveyard. A spring under the bank has always been known as the Drinon Spring. Not far from the cabin was a favorite camping place for Indians, and many stone relics have been found here. Other proof of the site of this cabin was an old apple orchard, and one tree remains to this day, over a hundred years old and known as the Drinon apple. This field is known as the "Old Orchard Field". A part of it belongs to W. L. Price and the other part to A. R. Gay.

Early records tell us that Thomas Drinon was a soldier with General Lewis in the Battle of Point Pleasant. When he returned home, he found his cabin in ruins. His wife had been killed by the Indians, and his son Charles carried into captivity. He was so broken up over his wife's death and the fate of his son that he returned to the army and marched beyond the Ohio River.

At the close of the war he returned to his mountain home, but there were no ties to hold him, and he resolved to journey to the west, and there among savage tribes search for his lost son. So with his rifle he pushed out into the wilderness. A year passed and there were no tidings of him. His friends believed that he had fallen a victim of savage cruelty. The fact was that he had journeyed far to the Northwest and found his lost son in posession of a trader

near Detroit. The homeward journey was begun, and at last both reached home and lived many years in what is now Pocahontas County.

Drinon owned a large boundary of land, several thousand acres that extended from Indian Draft to Stony Creek. Drinon's Ridge took its name from the old settler. The Drinons left this section long ago and we know nothing of the descendants of these brave pioneers.

The settlers to follow the Drinons were the Moores. About 1780 Robert Moore, Sr. moved to Edray from the Bridger place on Greenbrier River and settled on the Drinon holdings. He and his boys opened up a fine farm and erected a two story brick dwelling---the only brick dwelling in the community. Robert Moore and his wife lived and died in the "brick mansion". He was born in 1768 and died 1858 aged ninety years. His grave was the first in the Edray Graveyard.

Robert Moore's farm was divided among his sons and one daughter. The names of the sons were: Isaac, James, William and Robert, Jr. Robert received the old homestead and lived there several years. In 1867 he sold the old home to J. W. Sharp.

Isaac Moore settled in the woods just opposite the present site of the Edray Church. His home was a hewed log house about sixteen by twenty feet, two stories high, shaved shingle roof, chinked and daubed walls, one door and one window in the first story. In 1911 a fine frame house was erected on the site of this old log house by S. B. Moore.

About 1861 Edray Community swarmed with soldiers on the march or in camp. Isaac Moore contracted camp fever and

as he convalesced he was seized by measles from which he died. He too was buried in the new graveyard by the side of his father.

Colonel John Baxter was an early settler in this community. He came here about 1800, and is the first member of his family about whom any definite information can be found. He was the first member of the Baxter family to settle in Pocahontas County. His home was at Sulphur Spring about three miles from the Drinnon cabin. He was the first Colonel of the 127th Regiment. In the organization of the county, he was a leader and he held a prominent place in the early history of the county. When the county was first formed, he administered the oaths of office to the other members of the first court in 1822. For many years he was a justice of the peace and a member of the Pocahontas County Court. He did much in framing business papers and frequently adjusted disputes out of court. His library was the largest and best in the county, containing over a hundred volumes.

About this time there became a popular demand for a Constitutional Convention and the Assembly in 1827-28 passed an act providing that vote be taken upon the question. This resulted in a large majority in favor of the convention and that body assembled in Richmond, October 5, 1829. This was the most remarkable body of men that had assembled in Virginia since 1788. There sat James Madison and James Monroe, ex-presidents of the United States and many others renowned for their wisdom and eloquence. The body was composed of ninety-six members and of the whole number eighteen were from the region now embraced in the limits of West Virginia.

Among these was John Baxter representing Pocahontas County.

Other early settlers were the Barlows, Smiths, Duncans, and Duffields.

The Edray Post Office was established about 1850 and was the first post office in Pocahontas County. When looking for a name, Mrs. Eliza Moore, mother of the late George P. Moore, being a great student of the Bible suggested a Bible name. She said, "Call the post office Edrei, leave off the ei and add ay making Edray the name". (Numbers 21-33). The name Edrei means a fortress. In Joshua it is stated that Edrei is one of the fenced cities, and that may have suggested the name to Mrs. Moore, for at a very early date this little village was a fenced clearing. George P. Moore was appointed postmaster in 1856 by President Pierce. He was only sixteen years of age when he assumed this responsibility. He served as postmaster until 1885. William Scott was appointed postmaster under President Cleveland for some time, and then George P. Moore was appointed again and served until his death in 1922. His service made him the oldest postmaster in the United States. He served sixty-four yrs.

In the early days mills were of great importance and we find that the first mill was built by Robert Moore, Sr. at the head of Big Spring. This house was a hewed log building, two or more stories high, equipped with a twenty foot overshot water wheel and water trunk from the head of the spring. The inside equipment of the mill consisted of two sets of runners, both country made - one for grinding wheat and the other for grinding corn and chops.

The first saw mill of the community was built near the grist mill by Isaac Moore and got water from the same source. These mills were used for many years and this spot was the most important business center of the community.

The first store in Edray was owned and kept by William Allen at the place where Elmer Poage now lives. Isaac McNeel, Amos and Henry Barlow, and George P. Moore had stores at this same location.

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The first schools in the community were held in the settlers homes. The teacher received free board in the homes of his pupils and would spend a week in the home of one pupil and then move on to the next. The first real school house was near Mrs. George Baxter's home. The house was a round log structure with clapboard roof held in place by press poles. The fire place took up most of one end of the room. It was made of rough stone and the chimney was made of slats and mud. For light greased paper was pasted over the cracks. Seats were made of split logs, holes bored and pins put in for legs. The term of school was three months and the teacher's salary one dollar a month for each pupil.

The first church in the Edray Community was built on Stony Creek and called Hamlin Chapel. It is a hewed log building, cracks chinked and daubed, shaved shingle roof, side galleries, and for seats long benches with slat backs. Some years ago the side galleries were taken out and the building ceiled. The benches were replaced with chairs. This church was built about 1835 and is still in use.

History of Edray Community  
(by S. B. Moore)

Edray Community is bounded on the west by Stony Creek range of mountains; on the north by Elk Mountain, to the top of Slippery Hill on the Clover Creek road, then to the Bridger place on the Greenbrier river where Paul Sharp now lives; on the South by the top of river ridges, including the Fairview and Brush Settlements, to the top of Drinnen Ridge where the State road crosses and to Elmer Sharp's at the foot of Stony Creek Mt.

This community is about five miles wide where the State Road crosses, and ten miles long from east to west.

The Drinmons were the first settlers in Edray Community. Thomas Drinnen settled near the Edray Grave yard. There is some difference of opinion as to the exact spot where the Drinnen Cabin stood, but I feel sure it was on the bank just close to the grave yard. A spring under the bank has always, since my earliest recollection, been called the "Drinnen Spring." Other proof is an old apple orchard, trees of large size, mostly winter apples, near the spot where the cabin stood. My father Isaac Moore went to this orchard in the fall with the wagon for winter apples when I was a small boy, though large enough to pick apples from the ground. My uncle, Robert Moore, and his boys always called this field the "old orchard Field," and it goes by that name yet. A part of this field belongs to A. R. Gay and the other part belongs to William M. Sharp's heirs, all of which ones belonged to Thomas Drinnen, first settler in this community. He owned a large boundary of land several thousand acres that extended from Indian Draft to Stony Creek. Drinnen's Ridge took its name from the old settler, an everlasting monument.

Drinnen's home was broken up by the Indians. His wife was captured and taken away and murdered somewhere in Elk Mountain. Charles Drinnen a brother of Thomas Drinnen, settled near Onote. He cleared a field which bears the name "Charly Field" which is now owned by Anderson Barlow.

The Drinmons all left this country many years ago. I remember seeing James

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back door in one end

Drinmon a member of this distinguished family. I think the Drinmons went to the northwest part of this state.

Robert Moore, my grandfather, who was captured by the Indians (see W. T. Price's History of Bocahontas for a full account of this capture). Robert Moore, Sr. once lived at the Bridger place, and reared his family there. My father, Isaac Moore, was born and raised there. One brother, Andrew, fell from a tree and was killed while other members of the family were stirring offa kettle of sugar. About 1820, Robert Moore, Sr. Moved to Edray and settled on the Drinmon holdings. He and his boys opened up a fine farm and erected a fine two story building in the Community. I believe the lumber that went into the house was sawed with the whipsaw as at that time there was no water power saw mills. The broad ax was extensively used in getting out all heavy timber for buildings. Robert Moore and his wife lived and died in the brick mansion, and were buried in the Edray Grave yard. He was born in 1763, died 1858, age 90 years. His wife was born 1771, died 1855, age 84 years. These graves were the first in the Edroy Graveyard; Robert Moore's real estate was divided with his boys and one daughter. The names of the sons were Isaac, James, William and Robert Jr. Robert received the old homestead, lived there many years and sold to J. W. Sharp about 1867 for seven thousand dollars. That included the upper part of the place, now owned by Isaac Sharp's heirs. I want to say just here, there was an old house stood about half way between the old brick house and the gate at the road. I think the old settler built and occupied this house while the brick house was being erected. When I was a small boy, elections were held in the old house. There was no ticket or ballot used. The Commissioner or "Conductor of Election" asked the voter: "Who do you vote for?"

My father Isaac Moore, settled in the woods where I now live. Father's house was a hewed log hous, about 16X20 ft; shingle roof, chinked and daubed walls; one door and one window in the first story, and some in second story. The porch was on the side and stairs went up from the porch.

The soil of Edray Community is productive. The upland is largely limestone, naturally sod, with the blue grass when sod is taken off. The flat land below the

"with slot backs, door in one end

mountains is sand stone; not so rich as the limestone and not so good for grazing, but better for farming when improved; produces well and less liable to wash from heavy rains.

As to the timber, this community has been covered with all kinds of hard wood, basswood; some spruce high on the mountains and hemlock along the streams. Some of the most valuable timber is black walnut, ash, cherry, red oak and white oak, a great deal of which has been cut and shipped. Other hardwoods are Chestnut oak, some black oak, pink oak and sugar. There is some yellow pine on the flats.

Edroy Community can boast of the best water in the state. Both limestone and free stone. There are many bold springs around the foot of the mountains. Always flowing, never dry, namely. At Elmer Sharp's, E.K. Sharp's and also a sulphur spring at E. K. Sharp's, a bold spring at the Cochran place, at A. C. Barlow's head of Big Spring, now owned by the Bank of Marlinton and sufficient to run a grist mill with twenty foot overshot water wheel. Other bold springs at Mrs. M. K. Sharp's G. W. Mann's and Drinnon Spring at Mrs. J.W. Price's at Edray. John D. Gay owns head of Indian Draft. There are many drilled wells in the flats all good water.

Some of the first schools were taught on the old farm homes. One among the first, if not the first, was in an old house near Mrs. George Baxter's home. The house was a round log structure, clapboard roof, held in place with press poles. The fireplace took up most of one end of the house. It was made of rough stone. Chimney made of slate and mud. Now, for light, paper was pasted over cracks and greased to let in the light. Other cracks in the building were chinked and daubed. Seats were made of split logs or poles, holes bored and pins put in for legs. The term of school was about three months. The salary was one dollar per scholar a month. Writing was done with quill pens. The teacher boarded with the scholars. My father Isaac Moore, taught at this school when a young man. The first schools were called "Open Schools." Everyone spelled and read aloud.

The first Church in Edroy Community was built on Stony Creek and called Hamlin Chapel. It is a hewed log building. Cracks Chinked and daubed, shingled roof, side galleries, seats, --long benches with slot backs, door in one end

of building, elevated pulpit in other end, two small 12 light windows on sides. Some years ago the side galleries were taken out and the building ceiled. Benches were taken out and chairs put in. This church is still in use and was built in 1835; as the records show it was deeded July 4, 1835.

Edray Church was built in 1853 E. D. King was the contractor and builder. Contract price above foundation \$700.00. For this work Lakin and Peters furnished about twenty thousand feet of lumber from their mill at Clover Lick, delivered at the Gay Siding; which is now the Fair Grounds, for ten dollars per thousand white pine lumber. Everything summed up, all told, the Edray church cost \$2032.25.

Edray Post Office was the first post office in Edray Community.

When looking for a name, Mrs. Eliza Moore, mother of the late George P. Moore being a Bible reader, suggested a Bible name and said "Call the post office Edrei". Leaving off the ei and adding ry making Edray the name of the first post office. This office was established about 1850. As soon as Geo. P. Moore was of age, he became post master and continued to be until his death in 1922. He was the oldest post master in the U. S. A.

From Pocahontas Times ---Nov. 4, 1926

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Counties

Topic:

W. Va.

Title: Edray District, Pocahontas County  
Author: Rella F. Yeager

Status: Complete Date Submitted: Length: 858 Words

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Contents: Fairly complete account of Edray District, Pocahontas County, W. Va.; location, boundaries, surface, drainage, first settlers; description of first mills, school, post office; early churches & ministers; story of massacre of Drennen family.

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*Wedell* *b* *checked* -1-  
*Drennen's Creek* *JK*

Edray district lies in the western part of the county, is bounded on the north by Randolph County; northeast by Greenbank District; east by Huntersville district; south by Little levels District and west by Webster County. The surface is rough and mountainous. In the north are the Middle Mountains and southern continuations of the Elk and Cheat Mountains; in the center are the Black Mountains and in the east and southeast rise the lofty peaks of Buckley, Marlins and Brushy ranges.

The principal drainage is to the west with the exceptions of Swago Creek, Stony Creek and one or two other small streams which flow east and fall into the Greenbrier River. All the streams flow west and form the head waters of Gauley and Elk Rivers. The rivers ~~before~~ <sup>general view of the county</sup> have been named in the general view of the county.

The first cabin home built within the limits of Edray District was that erected by Marlin and Sewell near the present site of Greenbrier Bridge in the 1749 and which was long known as Marlins Bottom now changed to Marlinton, the county seat of Pocahontas County. This settlement was as tho' it had not been. The first actual settlers who found what they were looking for - HOMES - were Thomas Drennin, Jacob Warwick, William Sharp, Robert Moore, John Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Robert Gay, William Poage, Patrick Slaterly, Robert Duffle, Thomas Brock, Lawrence Drennin and John Smith.

The first grist mill was built by Jonathan McNeill in the early part of 1800. It was located on Swago Creek, a short distance from its mouth.

Of those mentioned as the pioneers of the district, several were soldiers with General Lewis in the battle at Point Pleasant and among them were Thomas Drennin. He was the first settler on the land where Edray post office is located. Soon after he built his cabin home, it was attacked in his absence by the Indians, who killed his wife and a woman named Smith and ~~cried~~ <sup>cried</sup> his son into captivity. When Mr. Drennin returned home and beheld his home in ruins and his beloved wife still in death and thought of his son perhaps reserved for a worse fate, his heart failed within him but a few days later he repaired to Fort Union and volunteered in the army then concentrating. He accompanied it to Point Pleasant, participated in the battle and in the march beyond the Ohio.

At the close ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> the War he returned to his mountain home but there all ties for him were severed and he resolved to journey to the west and ~~there~~ <sup>among</sup> savage tribes ~~search~~ for his beloved son. On the eve of his departure on his hazardous mission his neighbors gathered to bid him God-speed. Then with his rifle he pushed out into the wilderness. A long year passed away and there was no tidings of him for there were none to bring them and his friends believed that he had fallen a victim to savage cruelty, but not so; he had journeyed far to the north-west and found his son in the possession of a trader near Detroit, Mich. The homeward journey was begun and at last both reached home and lived long in what is now Pocahontas County. Drennins Ridge, now owned by Mrs. Alice Robertson, keeps ever in memory the name of the brave pioneer, Drennin.

Pilla F. Rogers